

REUSABLE PACKAGING TODAY

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Did you know.....?

Next year - 2016 - marks the 75th anniversary of RIPA? Originally established in 1941 as the National Barrel and Drum Association (NABADA), the group also was known for a time as the Association of Container Reconditioners. Look for special commemorative announcements and projects from RIPA during the anniversary year, particularly at the 75th Annual Conference next fall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

UN Subcommittee of Experts on Dangerous Goods
Nov 30 - Dec 8, 2015
Geneva, Switzerland

Chemical Packaging Committee
February 10 - 12, 2016
Sarasota, FL

RIPA Spring Technical Conference 2016
Dates TBA
Location TBA

RIPA 75th Annual Conference
October 26 - 28, 2016
Austin, TX

RIPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE A ROUSING SUCCESS

More than 110 RIPA members gathered in the picturesque city of Savannah, Georgia to take part in the association's 74th Annual Conference. The weather was nearly perfect and the hotel featured views of the historic Savannah waterfront and river.

Members of RIPA and its meeting partner, Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America (IPANA), came together on Wednesday morning to hear five superb speakers address a variety of business and regulatory topics.



Dr. Magdy El-Sibaie

.....[continued p. 4](#)

BUREK ELECTED RIPA CHAIR

At the RIPA Annual Conference in Savannah, GA, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to elect Mr. Dan Burek, Meyer Steel Drum, as the association's new Chair. Mr. Burek has served on the Board since 2010, and is now completing a two-year term as association Treasurer. Burek will assume office on January 1, 2016 and serve until December 31, 2017.

The Board also elected the following officers, all for two-year terms:

Vice Chair: Jerry Butler, Industrial Container Services
Treasurer: Tony Petrucci, The Bodtker Group
Secretary: Joe Wirth, Twin City Container

.....[continued p. 3](#)

RIPA PREPARING SUBMISSION TO DOT ON ULTRASONIC LEAK TESTING

RIPA is preparing a "petition for rulemaking" that would seek to incorporate into the U.S. Hazardous Materials Regulations a leakproofness test method for drums using ultrasonic sensing.

Currently, there exist two DOT Approvals for use of the method by two RIPA members. Each Approval includes several design specifications and operating conditions. The Approvals are nearing their 5-year renewal dates and consensus within RIPA has been that the subject may be "ripe"

.....[continued p. 7](#)

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

It has been my honor to serve the members of RIPA as Association Chair these past two years. The experience was wholly positive and greatly exceeded my expectations. To be honest, I believe I will take away more from the job than I gave.

The Bible teaches, "You reap what you sow." I have always believed this means that the effort a person puts into something will come back in benefits to that person, one way or another. In my case, the rewards of service to RIPA were many and, in business terms, the return on investment was almost immediate.

Even before I took office two years ago, I had several long conversations with then outgoing Chair Spencer Walker and several other former Chairs who told me what to expect in the job. To a person, they were highly positive about the organization and, in particular, our dedicated staff. Luckily, RIPA was already on a very positive financial path and I am pleased to say that RIPA has improved its financial position these past two years.

But that was just the beginning. When I took the job, I frankly had very little understanding about the importance of our relationship with the International Confederation of Container Reconditioners or the impact of that group's work on global packaging issues. Today, having attended several ICCR Board meetings (highly recommended) and been part of the planning committee for the 15th International Conference on Industrial Packaging, I can tell you that the work ICCR is not just important, it is vital to the long-term health of our industry.

This is true because packaging regulation is now global in nature. Recommendations that are adopted by the UN Committee of Experts inevitably find their way to North America. Business trends in Europe and elsewhere – such as increased use of thinner gauge steel drums – does impact our industry, sooner or later. For these reasons, I am truly delighted that our President, Paul Rankin will assume the Chair of ICCR next year.

Here at home I had an insider's seat to see how the work of the association gets accomplished. I assure you that RIPA has the respect of key individuals that regulate our industry in Washington, D.C. Speaking as a former politician, I'll put it this way: Paul and C.L. get their calls returned! DOT may not agree with our positions all the time, but they listen to us and are always willing to meet to hear our point of view.

Importantly, our voice is now heard on Capitol Hill. Three years ago, RIPA established a small Political Action Committee that member's fund. This PAC has enabled us to meet directly with key Congressional leaders, including Committee Chairs, on a regular basis. At this point in time, our industry is building name recognition and trust on the Hill. If – or more likely, when – the day comes that we need access, we will have it because of the work we are doing now.

I would like to thank the officers who served with and supported me these past two years – Tim O'Bryan, Jerry Butler and Dan Burek – as well as every Board member with whom I served. This is an organization whose strength comes from the efforts of many volunteer leaders, and the members who support them.

In closing, I ask respectfully that you give incoming Chair Dan Burek the same support you gave to me. He will be a tremendous Chair who, I know, will give his all to better our association.



Ricky Buckner

Ricky Buckner

...."New Officers" from p. 1

"I am thrilled to have been given this honor by the Board of Directors," said Burek. "Thanks to the efforts of outgoing Chair Ricky Buckner, the association is great shape going forward," he noted. "Ricky deserves the gratitude and thanks of every member in the group."

Burek plans to focus on program development and membership retention in the coming year. "I would like the association to utilize the internet more fully to both inform and train to members through webinars," he stated. Many members just don't have the time to leave work for a two days to travel to a meeting site, observed Burek. But almost every manager can set aside an hour or two once a month to take part in a web-based session, he said.

RIPA President Paul Rankin welcomes Burek's focus and ideas. "I know Dan Burek to be totally dedicated to this industry and a long-time supporter of the association," he said. "He is ready to lead the group and will bring energy and commitment to the position," noted Rankin.

RIPA thanks outgoing Chair Ricky Buckner and his fellow officers for all their work on behalf of the association these past two years.

INTERESTED PARTIES BLAST PROPOSED HAZMAT FEE HIKE

More than 25 national trade associations, including RIPA, have signed on to a blistering letter to Congress opposing a provision in the proposed surface transportation reauthorization legislation that would raise hazmat registration fees to record levels.

The letter asks members of the House/Senate "Conference Committee" to jettison a proposed \$3.4 million increase in fees paid by certain shippers and carriers of hazmat and ask the Government Accounting Office to study the issue. Currently, covered small businesses pay \$250.00 per year while large businesses pay \$2,575 per year.

The IPs are concerned that "no hearings were held to ascertain the need for these changes or the impacts on fee payers" and that DOT has not submitted reliable information substantiating the proposed fee increase.

The IPs expressed incredulity at the idea that some grant money is used to support the Hazardous Materials Emergency Grants (HMEP) program, which deals with Emergency Response and Community Right-to-Know issues and is administered by EPA. "Billions of dollars have been provided to emergency responders under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG). Hazardous materials response training is one of the eligible activities under this grant program," say the IPs. "Why do these groups need more money from a small transportation fund?" they asked.

The IPs also pointed out that most federal grant programs allow the administering agency to take a 2% administrative fee, but the HMTA allows for a 4% fee. "By reducing the administrative fee to the normal 2 percent level, sufficient additional funds would be freed up to cover the increase," concluded the letter.

Congressional negotiators are expected to act on this issue in the next two weeks.



IPANA Chair Chris Lind opened the meeting with comments on the excellent turnout and benefits associated with the co-located meeting structure. RIPA Chair Ricky Buckner echoed Lind's views about the meeting and urged further collaborative efforts between the two organizations. Buckner noted that his two-year term as RIPA Chair would soon end and he thanked his fellow Board members and officers for their help and support.



As Buckner prepared to leave the stage, RIPA President Paul Rankin called him back and presented him with two gifts. The first was a plaque on which was inscribed a statement of thanks for his

work as RIPA Chair. The second – a surprise – was a complete set of high-end cookware that will help Ricky pursue his real passion – cooking – with gusto.



Keynote speaker Roland Strassburger (*photo left*), Schütz Global CEO, gave a superb presentation in which he outlined his company's perspective on the global industrial packaging industry. He said that Schütz is highly optimistic about its own and the industry's future, and he indicated that his company welcomes new partnerships with reconditioners.

Mr. Gardner Carrick, VP, Strategic Initiatives at The Manufacturing Institute, spoke eloquently about a range of workforce development issues, including the difficulty many manufacturers are having finding qualified workers for mid- and high-skilled positions. TMI has started several programs designed to attract younger workers to the manufacturing field. Recently, the group sponsored "Manufacturing Day" during which over 1,600 manufacturers all across the nation invited students to visit their facilities. "We encourage all manufacturers to take part in this program and show neighbors and students what we do and how we do it," said Carrick.

"Social media is one tool in your sales arsenal that is often underutilized," said Karen Heinold from Potomac Communications Group. Heinold acknowledged that not every business needs a large scale social media presence today, but she encouraged firms to explore the potential benefits these communication tools offer for sales, new product advertising and employee engagement.



Glenn Wicks, The Wicks Group, talked about preparing for and dealing with site inspections by OSHA and other federal agencies. He explained that companies can delay a surprise inspection if the individual responsible for compliance is temporarily out of the office. He also suggested that a company officer accompany the inspector during every phase of the inspection.

The morning presentations concluded with an outstanding presentation by OHMS Associate Administrator Dr. Magdy El-Sibaie. Dr. El-Sibaie provided a comprehensive overview of recent administrative changes in his office, including the recent hiring of a new Administrator for PHMSA, Ms. Marie Therese Dominquez. He also talked about recent efforts to improve and streamline the Special Permits and Approvals process. Dr. El-Sibaie told attendees he is "working diligently" to open effective lines of communication between his agency and the regulated community. "OHMS understands that regulators and the businesses we regulate must understand one another's views in order to ensure the creation of an effective and workable regulatory structure," said El-Sibaie.

...."Conference" continued from p. 3

On Thursday evening, RIPA members dined while cruising the Savannah River aboard the Delta Queen, a three-floor boat styled after the famous show boats that traveled up and down the Mississippi in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A band played jazz and rock music while members played black jack and enjoyed a perfect fall evening.

The RIPA Product Group sessions opened with a casual one-hour conversation with Dr. El-Sibaie. After talking about his early days with the Agency and more recent efforts to expand and improved public outreach efforts, he addressed a series of questions raised by association members. Judging from several of his answers to regulatory concerns, it is clear Dr. El-Sibaie is determined to ensure that enforcement visits be conducted in a fair, consistent and informed manner.



Rod Stewart and Paul Rankin provided members with general guidance on Canadian closure instruction requirements, which for non-bulk containers are somewhat more stringent than U.S. rules. In addition to basic information about the proper closing method, information about tare weight, maximum gross mass and maximum capacity must be given to the packaging purchaser.

General Counsel Rick Schweitzer updated members about several new trucking regulations covering electronic drive logs, insurance filings and medical cards.



The Steel Drum and IBC Product Groups were extra busy at this meeting. RIPA is planning to submit to DOT two "requests for rulemaking", one of which would revise rules concerning allowable amounts of coating materials on reconditioned steel drums and another to authorize the use of ultrasonic leakproofness testing systems for non-bulk packagings.

The Steel Drum Product Group also discussed recent DOT citations involving dents in drums and the impact of 10/8/10 drums on the reconditioning marketplace.

The IBC Product Group talked about benefits derived from a recent Special Permit given to a RIPA member that eliminates the need to perform a second leakproofness test on inner receptacles that have already been tested by the manufacturer. The SP applies to repair operations at this time and Product Group Chair Brian Evoy urged members engaged in this activity to quickly apply to be a "party-to" the current permit. "It is very important that companies engaged in IBC repair have the correct paperwork in place," said Evoy. He noted that it is not obvious why the SP does not also cover remanufacturing operations, since they are so similar. However, he assured members that the association would take up this matter with DOT very soon.

On Friday evening, members staying in Savannah for the weekend gathered for a cocktail reception outside the hotel in a spot overlooking the river. The mood was upbeat and members were already looking forward to next year's meeting in Austin, Texas.



PRODUCT GROUP ROUND-UP

Both the Steel Drum and IBC Product Groups were busy during their meetings at the RIPA Annual Conference in Savannah.

Steel Drum Product Group

Steel Drum Product Group Chair Barry Wingard led discussions about two proposed petitions for rulemaking that the association hopes to file with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) this fall. One proposed petition seeks to amend current DOT rules regarding with the allowable amount of exterior coating that may remain on a reconditioned steel drum after cleaning.

The petition was developed in response to DOT citations issued to several members for excessive exterior coating residue. DOT inspectors are interpreting a provision in the Hazardous Materials Regulations that requires the removal of “any” exterior coating to mean removal down to the molecular level.

Following meetings last year with senior PHMSA officials, RIPA believed it had forged an “agreement in principle” on several key issues, including the fact that small amounts of exterior coating remains on virtually all reconditioned drums. However, no formal agreement was ever finalized.

RIPA hopes the rulemaking request will prompt development of a new rule that requires “substantial” removal of exterior coatings sufficient to ensure transportation safety is not compromised.

The group also discussed a proposal that would authorize universal use of ultrasonic testing devices for performing leakproofness tests on steel and plastic drums (*see article page 1*). Currently, only companies that have obtained an Approval from PHMSA may use exclusively an ultrasonic tester. The proposed rule would amend Appendix B of Part 178 of the HMR to list ultrasonic testers as approved alternate tests to water submersion.

Contact RIPA if you would like to view a copy of either or both draft proposals.

IBC Product Group

IBC Product Group Chair Brian Evoy, FDS Packaging, advised members engaged in IBC repair activities (e.g. replacement of an inner receptacle with another of the same brand) to apply for a “Party-to” Special Permit if they want to forego the performance of a second leakproofness test on inner receptacles already tested by the manufacturer. Evoy’s company, FDS, was the first to obtain an SP from PHMSA for this activity.

“It is very important that companies that do this work have the documentation that allow them to bypass the leakproofness test,” said Evoy. Without their own SP, companies could be cited for a paperwork violation by PHMSA. RIPA has created a template that enable members to easily apply for the SP; it is available from RIPA upon request.

Evoy also led a discussion on record-keeping for IBC IBC repair and recertification activities. Several PG members asked how such records should be kept for products that are not serialized. After discussion, PG members agreed that a daily log showing the number of units processed and the number that passed performed tests should be sufficient to satisfy the agency.

Finally, Evoy brought members up to date on IBC cross-bottle tests being performed by TEN-E on behalf of the group. Currently, two tests using Schutz and Mauser bottles and cages are available.

...."Ultrasonic" continued from p. 1

for adoption into the regulations (specifically, 49 CFR Sec. 178 "Test Methods Appendix B").

RIPA's petition for rulemaking will include some logged data on the numbers of PASS / FAIL results, as was required by DOT's Approvals. In order to be a manageable sample, the data is drawn from recent periods of several days. The data is required by DOT to assess the test method and was specifically required as a condition of the Approvals.

RIPA met recently with IPANA's Sue Nauman, Fritz Wybenga and Chris Lind (IPANA Chair) to discuss the potential for co-sponsorship. RIPA was advised that IPANA would not oppose the petition.

Significantly, IPANA personnel *did* offer RIPA some advice on certain wording and technical parameters that they felt would strengthen the application. RIPA appreciates this input and is currently amending the petition in preparation for submission.



Happy Thanksgiving !

A PROUD SON

In 1943, a recent graduate of Wheelock Teachers College, Bernice Rankin, became one of the first 100 women to be accepted into the U.S. Marines during World War II. She entered as a private and in less than a year had been accepted into Officers Candidate School. Upon graduation, she was awarded the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and worked at Quantico as the Sergeant Major's aide for the next four years.

The Marine Corps just passed its 240th birthday, and my 96 year-old mom was honored by some of her (younger) fellow Marines for her service and as one of the oldest living WW II Marine veterans. It was a wonderful afternoon I spent with her a few weeks ago. She is an amazing lady.



Bernice Rankin (seated) with three fellow ex-Marines.

A proud son,
Paul Rankin



Drum It Up!

November 2015

PACKAGING NEWS

Winemaking News

Savannah Hosts Manufacturers and Reconditioners of Reusable Packaging

Surrounded by Live Oak trees and alongside the Savannah River, the Reusable Industrial Packaging Association (RIPA) members met from Oct 28-31 (2015) for their Annual Conference. Piggybacked with IPANA's (Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America) Annual, the manufacturers and reconditioners of reusable packaging had 3 days of intense presentations and product group updates. Highlighting the presentations were Gardner Carrick of The Manufacturing Institute, who presented an in depth look of the issues effecting today's manufacturing workforce. Karen Heinold of Potomac Communications brought B2B Social Media opportunities to the level of packaging and manufacturing opportunities. Mr. Glenn Wicks of The Wicks Group broke out the legal procedures, expectations and company performance for an OSHA inspection. The most informative presentation was given Dr. Magdy El-Sibaie, Associate Administrator of the DOT's Office of Hazardous Materials Safety (PHMSA). Dr. El-Sibaie, who addressed the members with an update of the initiative currently underway by PHMSA, a review of their validation programs, and an update regarding inspection criteria. Dr. El-Sibaie then offered a second "round table chat" in which he participated in a casual dialogue with Paul Rankin, RIPA President, and all members of the Association. In the final days, product group meetings for steel drums and IBC's concluded the session. About 200 people participated in this conference which also included a Riverboat dinner on the Savannah River. 2016 will be in Austin, Texas.

—Howard Skolnik

Skolnik's Reza Tanha featured in Sports Illustrated Walk-on by Kansas State

Lots of programs pride themselves on being walk-on friendly. But the walk-on program at Kansas State is part of the team's identity, and has been since Coach Bill Snyder took over in 1989 and engineered one of the biggest turnarounds in college football history. From his two lengthy stints as coach at K-State, from 1989 to 2005 and from 2009 to the present), it's tough for Snyder to pick a favorite walk-on story. His favorite is about a linebacker in whom no one believed. No one, that is, except Bill Snyder.

Reza Tanha, currently Skolnik's VP of Engineering and Operations, was a 6-foot, 190-pounder from Gridley, Kan., population 300. When Snyder got to K-State he told his assistants that he didn't want to know which players had the team's 45 scholarships, or who was on aid versus who wasn't. It was a brief conversation that left a lasting impression, "I just want to tell you how much I appreciate you," Tanha told Snyder. "I haven't played much, but you've got me into three games so far—and I know I'm not a very good player. But you treat us just like everyone else."

Tanha played just the 1989 season before graduating. Each weekend, he unfurls his Wildcats flag, pulls on his K-State T-shirt and finds his team on TV. Almost three decades removed from playing, he feels a special connection to every walk-on who comes through the program. At most schools, the walk-on label signifies a perceived lack of talent. In Manhattan, it's an elevated status of sorts, a special fraternity. Eight years ago, Tanha—now living in a Chicago suburb—returned to Kansas to go turkey hunting. While there he accompanied a fellow K-State graduate to a local banquet where Snyder was the keynote speaker. Tanha approached Snyder before the event to say hello, and stuck out his hand. "Hey, coach, you probably don't remember me, but I'm ..."

"Reza Tanha," Snyder interjected. "Linebacker. It's so good to see you!"

Read the entire Sports Illustrated interview about [Coach Snyder and Reza.](#)

—Howard Skolnik

Oak in a Bottle

As a Chicago based manufacturer of [stainless steel wine barrels](#), we are always excited to see other Chicago companies bringing innovations to the world of wine and spirits. The latest innovation brings oak aging behind the bar or at home, and it just got a whole lot quicker. Joel Paglione of Chicago, has created Oak Bottle, a wooden vessel with a charred interior that lets you age wine, beer and spirits in two to 48 hours. It's so efficient that within two hours, you've added oak flavor to the wine and it hasn't over-oxidated and the wine hasn't gone flat yet. It makes it taste as if it's been aged for years in an oak barrel. Many winemakers believe that what makes a truly great wine great is more a matter of what occurs in the vineyard than what happens inside the winery or distillery. We agree, the winemaker or distiller can only highlight flavors and aromas that already exist, not invent flavor. That is what the art of oaking is all about. For centuries, winemakers and distillers have used oak to bring out the best in wine and spirits. The biggest problem aside from the cost of oak barrels is the amount of time it takes for the oaking process to work. This is where the Oak Bottle comes in. Using a simple volume to surface area equation it's easy to understand how a vessel with more surface area touching less volume can infuse the wine or spirit quicker. The goal of the Oak Bottle is to make the oak infusion process simple, fast, and cost effective so that just about anyone can become a winemaster from the comfort of their own home. The traditional use of 59 gallon oak barrels for wine making was impractical and expensive. In the past only the best winemakers had access to cooperages who made the best oak barrels. Oak Bottle is currently running a Kick Starter campaign to ramp up manufacturing. For more details or to purchase an Oak Bottle, visit their website: <http://oakbottle.com/>

—Dean Ricker

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Contact:
Scott Mitchell
251-459-6296
scott@mcontainer.com

News:

Effective December 3, 2012 Watson Standard acquired certain assets of Delta Coatings Corporation, a privately owned coatings company specializing in the development and manufacturing of coatings for the general industrial and packaging industries.

Acquiring Delta allows Watson to re-enter the general industrial coatings marketplace and add to its existing portfolio of coatings and adhesives. The acquired business will operate as Watson Standard Industrial Coatings.

“We are enthusiastic about this return to an industry that was a facet of our foundation and represents our continued investment in and dedication to the coatings industry,” remarked Jim Lore, President of Watson Standard.

This acquisition provides significant benefits to both companies’ customers, current and prospective. Watson Standard will expand upon Delta’s product offerings through its development capabilities and organizational synergies. Combined, Watson and Delta are able to supply additional general industrial market segments with solvent based, water based, Ultra Violet (UV), and Electron-Beam (EB) products. Watson Standard’s acquisition will also foster additional global growth opportunities.

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Watson Standard is dedicated to developing the most innovative coatings, adhesives, and related products for the international general industrial, rigid and flexible packaging markets.

Delta: Strengths and Reputation

Delta Coatings Corporation, located in Melrose Park, IL., has been a vital and innovative member of the industrial coatings community since 1996. Delta is best known for its water-borne coatings for the container and drum industries (interior and exterior), OEM/general industrial and transportation industries.

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